

Abstract

1 A distributed caching technique for use in computer networks is disclosed. The illustrative
2 embodiment is particularly advantageous in computer networks that comprises a hierarchical topology
3 because it removes some of the computational tasks associated with caching away from the network
4 nodes that act as caches to other network nodes that are less burdened with computational tasks.
5 Furthermore, some embodiments of the present invention use hash tables to facilitate the storage and
6 retrieval of cached resources. The illustrative embodiment of the present invention comprises: hashing
7 at a first processor a first resource identifier to create a hash key, wherein the first resource identifier
8 identifies a first resource; transmitting from the first processor to a second processor the hash key and
9 a request for the first resource; and receiving at the first processor a second resource in response to the
10 transmission of the hash key and the request for the first resource from the first processor to the second
11 processor.